



President's September Memo

September has been a busy month for students and staff. The much-needed mid-semester break came but was over far too quickly.

1. USU Programs Planning for 2019

Board Directors have collaborated with the programs department alongside other departments, to finalise the draft programs the USU will be running in 2019. This includes changing the form of Radical Sex and Consent Week such that it will now be part of a broader sexual health and wellbeing week. This change comes after the declining engagement amongst student with Rad Sex week despite increased resources being allocated to the event by the USU. Much of the content will be kept the same, but we are looking to merge the festival with much needed focus on other elements of student well-being. We're excited for the 2019 calendar year and we will see the return of some new 2018 initiatives like USYD's Got Talent and International Revue.

2. Bright Ideas Applications

Bright Ideas is the USU's annual grants program for emerging creative talent at USYD and applications are currently open. The program enables students to submit a proposal and receive financial and professional support to achieve their artistic goals. On the right is 2018 Bright Ideas recipient Antony Youssef's installation, *ORGANISM*, which was featured in the USU outlet Courtyard.

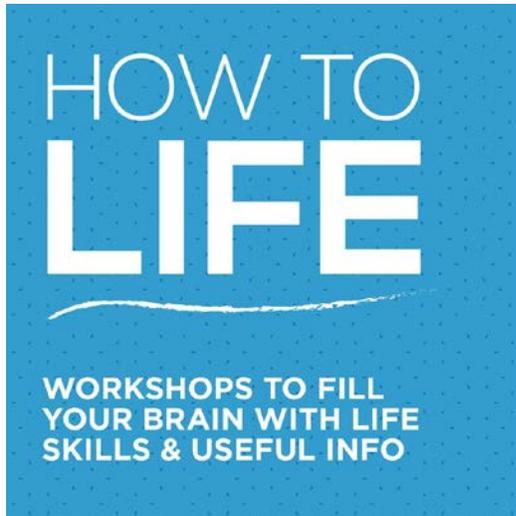


3. Women's Debating Championships

Congratulations to the USU Women's Debating contingent who competed at the Otago Women's Australasian Debating Championships in Dunedin this year and won the tournament. The contingent was incredibly successful with all 7 teams progressing to the final rounds. Special congratulations to Bostan Nurlanov and Ella Finlay (USU 2) who won the entire tournament and Ella for being the both the best novice and overall speaker of the tournament.

4. Revues

As the faculty revues season wraps up, the USU wants to congratulate all students who participated in revues either as a cast, band or crew member. The revue season was a triumph with many *topical* and hilarious skits.



5. How to Life

This Semester we have 3 'How to Life' sessions planned, which are workshops dedicated to educating and developing lifestyle and professional knowledge. Our first session was hosted this month on the topic of Mental Health. A Q&A panel with speakers from HeadSpace, Shades, Sydney Clinical Psychology and MAHSoc was held in the Cullen Room with over 70 attendees. We also live streamed the event to the Facebook event. If you are interested in attending the next How to Life session in October, there are more details on our website:

<https://www.usu.edu.au/Whats-On/Events/HowToLife.aspx>.

6. Ethical Investment Strategy

At the September Board meeting, we passed the recommendation to approve the sale of USU ETF investments for retention in cash. This is a historical move, as it marks the first step in the USU's move towards more suitable, ethical investments. We will be conducting further market research in the next few months as we re-allocate our money into ethical investment funds.

7. Snow Globes

Thanks to Tianhao Wang for this beautiful photo of USU's unique jacaranda snow globes! Be sure to get yours from the Sydney Store or Unimart, or pre-order them online:

<https://www.usu.edu.au/Shop/SNOW-GLOBE-Preorder/Snow-Globe/PREORDER-Jacaranda-Snow-Globe.aspx>

